

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER  
AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT  
ON S. 250, CARL D. PERKINS CA-  
REER AND TECHNICAL EDU-  
CATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF  
2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2006*

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support the Conference Report for S. 250, legislation to reauthorize the Carl Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act. This conference report is the product of an all too rare, bipartisan, good faith effort to pass real legislation that makes a difference in our communities across the Nation. This conference report also sends an important message to the President who has proposed to eliminate federal career and vocational education programs: These programs work and we are united in our support for them.

I am particularly pleased that this bill includes my amendment to encourage schools to develop individual graduation and career plans for students in career and technical education programs. Including graduation and career planning as an allowable activity under Perkins is one small step in addressing the pressing issue of our low graduation rates. These plans will help ensure that high school students graduate prepared for postsecondary education and the workplace.

Action is urgently needed to improve our high school graduation rates. The Manhattan Institute, the Harvard Civil Rights Project, and the Urban Institute have analyzed the data and come to the same conclusion—roughly 30 percent of all students who should be earning high school diplomas aren't. For African American and Hispanic students that number jumps to nearly 50 percent. Furthermore, only a fraction of students leaving our high schools are prepared for college. The Manhattan Institute found that nationally only 34 percent of students left high school prepared to enter a four-year college. Only 23 percent of African American students and only 20 percent of Hispanic students left high school prepared for college. We must mobilize our efforts across all of our education programs to turn this situation around. This legislation can be an important component of what I hope will be a national strategy to improve high schools.

I would also like to commend the House and Senate conferees for reaching an agreement to protect the integrity of the Tech Prep Program. This program has been tremendously successful in my district and across the State of Texas. Tech Prep programs have provided countless opportunities for our students to gain access to a rigorous academic curriculum, cutting edge technology, and college credit while still enrolled in high school.

I congratulate all of the members of the conference committee for their fine work, especially the committee chairmen and ranking members. This is legislation that we can all be proud to support.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP VICTOR T.  
CURRY: CELEBRATING HIS 15TH  
PASTOR ANNIVERSARY

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2006*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to one of Miami's great spiritual and community leaders, Bishop Victor T. Curry.

I am joined in honoring Bishop Curry by my colleagues: JAMES R. LANGEVIN of Rhode Island, ED CASE of Hawaii, DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ of Florida, DIANE E. WATSON of California, WILLIAM LACY CLAY of Missouri, ARTUR DAVIS of Alabama, TIM RYAN of Ohio, JOHN BARROW of Georgia, ADAM SMITH of Washington, MIKE THOMPSON of California, FORTNEY H. "PETE" STARK of California, JOSEPH CROWLEY of New York, MIKE ROSS of Arkansas, STEPHEN F. LYNCH of Massachusetts, CHARLES GONZALEZ of New York, STEPHANIE HERSETH of South Dakota, JOHN LEWIS of Georgia, CHARLIE MELANCON of Louisiana, PATRICK J. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee, G.K. BUTTERFIELD of North Carolina, DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, FRANK PALLONE, JR. of New Jersey, ALBERT R. WYNN of Maryland, SHELLEY BERKLEY of Nevada, LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES of Ohio, RUSH HOLT of New Jersey, DAVID WU of Oregon, BETTY MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, TIM BISHOP of New York, BOBBY SCOTT of Virginia, JIM MATHESON of Utah, DAVE REICHERT of Washington, JOHN S. TANNER of Tennessee, F. ALLEN BOYD, JR. of Florida, LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, RAHM EMANUEL of Illinois, JOHN M. SPRATT of South Carolina, HENRY CUELLAR of Texas, HAROLD FORD, JR. of Tennessee, CHAKA FATTAH of Pennsylvania, GWEN S. MOORE of Wisconsin, LEONARD L. BOSWELL of Iowa, RAUL M. GRIJALVA of Arizona, DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN of the U.S. Virgin Islands, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, AL GREEN of Texas, MICHAEL CAPUANO of Massachusetts, JOHN T. SALAZAR of Colorado, BOB ETHERIDGE of North Carolina, JULIA CARSON of Indiana, JIM COOPER of Tennessee, CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK of Michigan, C.A. "DUTCH" RUPPERSBERGER of Maryland, EMANUEL CLEAVER of Missouri, GREGORY W. MEEKS of New York, MICHAEL M. HONDA of California, DENNIS J. KUCINICH of Ohio, DALE E. KILDEE of Michigan, WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON of Louisiana, JAMES CLYBURN of South Carolina, ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON of the District of Columbia, IKE SKELTON of Missouri, JOSE SERRANO of New York, EDOLPHUS TOWNS of New York, ELIJAH CUMMINGS of Maryland, MELVIN L. WATT of North Carolina, BARNEY FRANK of Massachusetts, CHET EDWARDS of Texas, SANDER M. LEVIN of Michigan, MARION BERRY of Arkansas, NICK J. RAHALL of West Virginia, MAJOR R. OWENS of New York, GENE TAYLOR of Mississippi, JOHN D. DINGELL of Michigan, CAROLYN MALONEY of New York, GENE GREEN of Texas, MAXINE WATERS of California, BART STUPAK of Michigan, ALCEE L. HASTINGS of Florida, LUIS V. GUTIERREZ of Illinois, JESSE JACKSON, JR. of Illinois, JOHN CONYERS, JR. of Michigan, SANFORD BISHOP, JR. of Georgia, BENNIE G. THOMPSON of Mississippi, SILVESTRE REYES of Texas, SHEILA JACKSON-LEE of Texas, CORRIE BROWN of Florida, WILLIAM DELAHUNT of Mas-

sachusetts, RUBEN HINOJOSA of Texas, BILL PASCRELL, JR. of New Jersey, and SOLOMON P. ORTIZ of Texas.

On May 21st, Bishop Curry celebrated his 15th pastoral anniversary, and I want to echo the same sentiments of joy and gratitude that the 15,000 members of the New Birth Baptist Church in Miami on this happy occasion.

Bishop Curry's ministerial journey truly represents the best and the noblest of our community. As bishop, senior pastor, and teacher of New Birth Baptist Church, he is leading his congregation and has tirelessly worked to enlighten our community on the path to spiritual wisdom, social responsibility and good government.

I want to acknowledge the tremendous work he is doing in guiding not only the members of New Birth Baptist Church, but also the entire family of the "The Cathedral of Faith International."

His motto—"From Vision to Victory"—has impacted the lives of countless people, as Bishop Curry has carried forth his message of hope in person, in newspapers, on television, and on radio. He has demonstrated, both by word and by example, his unconditional love for and commitment to our children, the elderly, the poor, the disenfranchised, and those less fortunate among us.

I therefore join with my colleagues, the congregation of the New Birth Baptist Church and our entire community in honoring Bishop Curry on his 15th pastoral anniversary and in wishing him many more in the years to come.

HONORING EDDIE WELLS

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2006*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exemplary public servant and citizen from my congressional district. Eddie Wells, a ranger at Mammoth Cave National Park, recently received the Harry Yount Award, naming him the best ranger in the Southeastern Region of the National Park Service. The peer-nominated award recognizes and honors outstanding rangers who exemplify the highest standards of performance.

Mammoth Cave's Superintendent and fellow rangers cite Wells effective leadership skills, adaptability to change, and strong work ethic as requisites for his nomination. Ranger Wells' colleagues particularly emphasized his unique ability to communicate with a wide range of people, informing and educating park visitors and fellow employees on issues concerning emergency medical care, park regulations, and Mammoth Cave's history.

In addition to his duties as ranger, Eddie Wells leads a field training program at Mammoth Cave for graduates of the federal law enforcement center. He commits himself each session to coordinate the program in a way that each ranger can receive maxim benefit from the training. He is also a valuable and well-respected student mentor at the Great Onyx Job Corps Center.

Eddie Wells' service continues to significantly enhance park operations and community relations at Mammoth Cave. His vast knowledge, work ethic, and attention to detail

exemplify true professionalism, a standard appreciated by his colleagues and members of the public.

It is my great privilege to recognize Eddie Wells today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for his leadership and service. His unique achievements and dedication to the National Park Service mission make him an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and appreciation.

#### INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 233—NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COASTAL WILD HERITAGE WILDERNESS ACT

### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2006*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, this bill, HR 233, the Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act is the product of over five years of town hall meetings, field tours and open debates both in the House, the Senate and in city halls and county board chambers throughout the north coast of California. The bill that we have before us today is carefully crafted to address the concerns of the communities affected by this measure, every acre of which is entirely within my congressional district. I have personally invested many hours in the formation of this bill. I have hiked, fished, hunted and taken aerial tours of the areas in this legislation. I have also held public hearings with stakeholder groups representing timber, hunting and fishing, conservation, government, offroad vehicles, mountain bikes, business and farming. The process which has taken over five years, was exhaustive and inclusive.

This legislation would expand wilderness protection on public lands by approximately 273,000 acres entirely within California's 1st Congressional District. The legislation includes adding wilderness protection to the King Range of Humboldt and Mendocino counties. The Bush administration testified in both the Senate and House that the addition of the King Range would be the "crown jewel" of our national wilderness system. The legislation is not only important for the protection of some of my district's most treasured lands, it also enhances protection of the federally threatened and endangered salmon and trout and helps ensure a source of clean, reliable water for California's future.

With respect to this wilderness legislation, the two most contentious issues for the constituents of California's 1st Congressional District were our ability to fight and prevent forest fires and the continued access to the proposed wilderness areas. I took extra precautions to ensure the land managers would not lose any of the tools they have today to fight fire and their ability to apply pre-suppression measures to combat fires in HR 233.

This bill will not close any legal roads to anyone who wants to visit these truly spectacular areas.

I paid particular attention to people who enjoy off-road vehicle and mountain bike use, and no off-road vehicle trails will be closed in this bill. In addition, I worked with the Bureau of Land Management to create what many expect to be a world-class mountain biking trail system just outside of the King Range wilder-

ness area. Chairman POMBO and I also worked to provide additional protections to Cow Mountain in Lake and Mendocino Counties to protect or maintain existing mountain bike and off-road vehicle trails.

Impacts on the once strong logging industry in Northern California were also taken into consideration in this bill and there are no timber sales under consideration for any of the public lands in this legislation.

This bill will protect Northern California's most spectacular public lands. Specifically, this wilderness bill will protect the following areas.

#### SEC. 3 (1) SNOW MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS ADDITION

Location: Approximately three miles east of Pillsbury Reservoir in Lake County.

Size: 23,706 acres

Highlights: Ten miles of the scenic Eel River canyon, Bloody Rock, and The Bloody Rock and Cold Creek Trails.

Description: The Snow Mountain Wilderness additions are composed of the lower elevation ancient forests, grasslands, chaparral and oak woodlands lying at the foot of the already designated Snow Mountain Wilderness. The California Department of Fish and Game considers these oak woodlands and grasslands important for the survival of local deer herds through the winter months when high-elevation areas are covered in snow. The additions contain a 10-mile stretch of the Eel River canyon which hosts bald eagle, osprey and trout. Forests of black oak, Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, live oak and incense cedar provide important habitat for marten, goshawk and northern spotted owl. Bloody Rock, an enormous prominence that rises steeply above the Eel River, was the site of a battle between the Yuki Tribe and settlers in the Nineteenth Century. Trail 9W45 and the Bloody Rock, Cold Creek and Summit Springs trails traverse the area.

#### SEC. 3 (2) SANHEDRIN WILDERNESS

Location: In Mendocino and Lake counties, approximately 15 miles east of Willits.

Size: 10,571 acres in Lake and Mendocino Counties.

Highlights: Views in all directions, including the Pacific Ocean, the Bay Area and Mount Shasta.

Description: The Sanhedrin Wilderness contains extensive old-growth forest, meadows, oak woodlands, chaparral and "serpentine barrens," places where the nutrient poor bluegreen soil is so inhospitable to many plants that only specially adapted species can survive. As a result, Sanhedrin Mountain provides habitat for at least five rare and unique plant species, including the Anthony Peak lupine that grows only in the Mendocino National Forest and nowhere else in the world. On a clear day, visitors to the area can see the Pacific Ocean, the Bay Area and even Mount Shasta hundreds of miles away.

#### SEC. 3 (3) YUKI WILDERNESS

Location: Mendocino and Lake counties, approximately five air-miles southeast of Round Valley and the community of Covelo.

Size: 53,887 acres in Lake and Mendocino Counties.

Highlights: The Middle Fork Eel supports between one-third and one-half of California's entire remaining summer-run steelhead trout population.

Description: The Yuki Wilderness forests consist of ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, Shasta red fir, white fir and incense cedar. The Yuki region also hosts seven species of oak. Populations of eleven rare plants have been identified in the area. Several rare animals also call the area home, including the bald

eagle, marten, goshawk, northern spotted owl and prairie falcon. Elk and Thatcher creeks and the Wild and Scenic Middle Fork Eel River host populations of salmon and steelhead trout. The Middle Fork Eel supports between one-third and one-half of California's entire remaining summer-run steelhead trout population. Wildflower displays are extensive. Whitewater boaters use the Middle Fork Eel River and hunting is another common activity. Trails include 11W15, 10W27 and Horse Pasture Ridge.

#### SEC. 3 (4) YOLLA BOLLY-MIDDLE EEL WILDERNESS ADDITION

Location: Approximately 10 miles northeast of Covelo and Round Valley in Mendocino County.

Overall size: 27,036 acres.

Highlights: The Middle Fork Eel River hosts between 30-50 percent of the state's summer-run steelhead trout population, the Travelers Home National Recreation, Hell Hole, Leech Lake and Smokehouse trails.

Description: The Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness additions are dominated by old-growth forests, meadows, oak woodlands and the deep canyon of the Middle Fork Eel River. Howellia, an aquatic plant once thought extinct in California, was discovered here by botanists in the 1990s. The Wild and Scenic Middle Fork Eel River hosts up to one-half of California's entire remaining summer-run steelhead trout population. The Smokehouse, Travelers Home National Recreation, Hell Hole and Leech Lake trails traverse the area.

#### SEC. 3 (5) SISKIYOU WILDERNESS ADDITION

Location: 22 miles west of Crescent City in Humboldt and Del Norte counties.

Size: 30,122 acres in Del Norte and Humboldt Counties.

Highlights: An area noted for its botanical diversity and salmon and steelhead watersheds.

Description: The Siskiyou Wilderness Additions are among California's most remote lands. Unusual soils, great rises and drops in elevation, and ample annual rainfall all combine to offer refuge for an immense diversity of plants and animals in the proposed additions. Ancient forests consist of 14 species of conifers, the second greatest conifer diversity in the world. Salmon and steelhead trout use the region's many streams, especially Blue Creek. Eighteen rare plants have been identified in the area by the Forest Service. Other species include northern spotted owl, fisher, mink, bald eagle, Roosevelt elk and goshawk. The proposed additions contain the popular Forks of Blue and Gunbarrel trails.

#### SEC. 3 (6) MOUNT LASSIE WILDERNESS

Location: Approximately 20 miles northeast of Garberville eight miles west of Ruth Reservoir in Humboldt and Trinity counties.

Size: 7,279 acres.

Highlights: Scenic views of the Coast Range and a noted haven for rare and unusual plant species.

Description: The Mount Lassic Wilderness contains unique rock formations such as Mount Lassic and Red Lassic that are visible from as far away as the King Range to the west and the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness to the south. Unusual soils host six rare plant species that have been identified in the region. Other species include northern spotted owl, blue grouse, marten, fisher and goshawk. Old-growth forests of Douglas fir, incense cedar, and Jeffrey pine cover much of the area. Trail 5E33 climbs Mount Lassic and then drops to the Van Duzen River to the west.

#### SEC. 3 (7) TRINITY ALPS WILDERNESS ADDITION

Location: In Humboldt County on the western edge of the existing Trinity Alps Wilderness.